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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Poland

25X1 SUBJECT Uranium Excavation Areas in the Southwestern Part of Poland: Labor/Training and Salaries/Production Techniques/Security Measures

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25X1 1. "The following information dates up to [REDACTED] 1953:

2. "Uranium excavation activities in the southwestern part of Poland (close to the Czechoslovak border) are carried on under the supervision of the Dolno Slaskie Kopalnie Kowary (Lower Silesian pits in Kowary). This name was given to the uranium enterprise when the first uranium excavations were started in the Kowary area. These excavations have now been resumed on a larger scale (after considerable extensions of the pits).

3. "Also in the Kowary area are lead, nickel and copper mines. Quite some time ago [REDACTED] /date unspecified/, these mines were being worked. Since then, there has been no excavation whatsoever.

4. "Uranium excavations have also been resumed in the districts east of Kowary in the area of Walbrzych.

5. "There are a few dozen uranium pits located southwest of Kowary. Digging takes place on the northern and southern slopes of the Granaty Mountain chain. [See map of area available on loan from the CIA Map Library.]

6. "Around 800 civilian miners are working in the pits. In addition, at least two to three companies of soldiers from military labor units stationed in Kamienna Gora are assigned to each shift.

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7. "There is a third category of labor which is hired to work in the Kowary uranium excavations and this consists of the former pupils of a special preparatory school for miners in Swiebodzice. This group lives in two boarding houses run by the State. For around 70% of their income, they receive from these State-run boarding houses complete room and board, as well as their civilian clothing.

8. "Courses in this special preparatory school for miners, the so-called SPP School (Szkoła Przysposobienia Przemysłowego) last from five to six months. During their training periods, the pupils spend half of each week on theoretical problems and the second half on the practical angles of their professional training. This practical training is carried out in the uranium pits in Walbrzych, where ore excavations are in a primary stage.

Uranium Pits in the Walbrzych AreaPits near Kozice

9. "These pits are located north of the small settlement of Kozice (built formerly for miners working in the old Schuckin shaft). Branching off to the left and the right of the side road from Kozice to Poniatow and approximately half a kilometer from Poniatow itself is a wire fence surrounding an area approximately 1½ km in length and 1 km wide. [See map of area available on loan from the CIA Map Library.] To protect this area, apart from the wire fence, there are also observation towers on which revolve searchlights illuminating the surrounding terrain in all directions every night".

10. "Right by the entrance to this 'uranium compound' are the barracks of a ... detachment which has been specially stationed here to guard the Kozice and Julianowo pits. (The Julianowo pit is located farther to the east.) The KPW detachment consists of approximately two companies. They are billeted in the one-story building on the right side of the entrance to the compound while the commander and all security check rooms are located on the left side.

25X1 11. "Up to the present time, [1953], approximately 18 shafts have been worked. The excavations are made into the various slopes, going to a depth of 100 to 200 meters. Very often there is no yield. Excavation operations are abandoned if the chemical tests show that there is no uranium present. The equipment for these mining operations is rather primitive. For example, there are no adequately installed lifts in the shafts. Large vats are used for carrying workers up and down two at a time. The vats are also used for bringing up the bricks and rocks which are then tested for their uranium content.

12. "The Kozice pits have their own self-run workshops for tools and machinery. Excavation is mechanized to only a small degree and most of the mining is done with ordinary drilling and boring machinery (by means of compressed air).

13. "Some of the 18 shafts on the slopes have already been completely abandoned and so [illegible] this summer [1953], boring was started on the [illegible] road and also along the road. All over the area, waste piles of grey rock are [illegible]. From what I could see, only a very small part of the excavated rock is actually transported from the Kozice pits to outside spots for further processing. The uranium ore, when it has been cleaned in a rather primitive fashion, is transported by [illegible] on which metal containers have been placed.

14. "Mining is done in three shifts, day and night. More than 200 miners work on each shift, among them some pupils from the Swiebodzice preparatory mining school going through their practical courses in the shafts. This practical training is called Akcja Kamien (active stone excavation). Actually, the pupils work under unhealthy and dangerous conditions in the uranium operations.

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15. "Regular miners in these operations are paid extremely high salaries. A mining specialist, one working as head of an underground brigade (na przodku), is in a position to make as much as 3000, or even 5000 zlotys, per month. There are special premiums for discovering uranium. Regular employees working in the offices connected with the pits receive higher pay than they would in regular industries. For example, a young typist receives a monthly salary of around 900 zlotys. The miners are given special overalls and shoes, appropriate for work in uranium ore pits. They also receive good food in their canteens. Even before 3 January 1953 (when all over Poland food rationing was still obligatory), uranium miners received milk, fat and meat in rather considerable quantities. All employees in these enterprises are well paid and well fed.

16. "Every day all employees in these enterprises have to go through very strict security checks. Each miner is personally checked and searched upon leaving the mining area. If even a small piece of stone is found on anyone who is unable to prove proper authorization, he is taken to prison.

Julianowo Pits

17. "Julianowo (German: Kolonie Alt-Juliansdorf) is around five kilometers northeast of Kozice. The uranium ore pit area is located near a side road which encircles the hill north of Julianowo. [See map of the area available on loan from the CIA Map Library.] The pit area of Julianowo is larger than that of Kozice, being at least two kilometers in length and 1½ kilometers in width. Also, there are more shafts here. Over 1000 miners are employed, working in three shifts. There is a small number of apprentices from the Swiebodzice preparatory mining school.

18. "In this area, excavation methods are much more mechanized. The shafts are connected with the waste piles of rock by a narrow-gauge railway line. Furthermore, the ventilation system is not as primitive as it is in Kozice. The reason for this higher degree of mechanization might be that the shafts here are of a more permanent character and the production of uranium ore is much higher than it is in Kozice.

19. "This area is also under the very careful guard of a special KBW detachment.

20. "The Julianowo pits operate a motor pool to serve both excavation areas.

New Excavation Attempts Southeast of Swiebodzice

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25X1 [redacted] in an attempt to find uranium ore in the area southeast of Swiebodzice and between Mokrzeszow and Komorow. [See map of the area available on loan from the CIA Map Library.]

22. "Several pits for uranium excavation are in operation around the Ledeni Zdroj area." [No further information is available.]

25X1 [redacted] Available on loan from the CIA Map Library is a map of the uranium excavation areas near Kowary and Walbrzych, and between Mokrzeszow and Komorow. This map is drawn to a scale of 1:100,000. To borrow map call [redacted] Map call number - 84580-R

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